

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:***In the Claims:***

16. (Amended) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
- (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
- (c) transmitting to the database an offer to sell by a first participant based upon the market sale price;
- (d) receiving the offer to sell into the database;
- (e) accepting the offer to sell into the database;
- (f) displaying the offer to sell to said plurality, wherein said offer to sell is comprised of a quantity of units of electrical energy and a unit price, wherein the unit price displayed to each participant of the plurality is adjusted to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy from the first participant to each participant of the plurality, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized by a method comprised of:

- (i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises –
 - (a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity,

(b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement

between at least one or more buyer and seller participants, and

(ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction
conditions; and

(g) facilitating an acceptance and purchase of the offer to sell by a second participant.

28. (Amended) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
- (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
- (c) transmitting to the database an offer to buy by a first participant based upon the market sale price;
- (d) receiving the offer to buy into the database;
- (e) accepting the offer to buy into the database;
- (f) displaying the offer to buy to said plurality, wherein said offer to buy is comprised of a quantity of units of electrical energy and a unit price,
wherein the unit price displayed to each participant of the plurality is adjusted to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy from the first participant to each participant of the plurality, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized by a method comprised of:

(i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises –

(a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity,

(b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants, and

(ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions; and

(g) facilitating an acceptance of the offer to buy and a promise to deliver by a second participant.

40. (Amended) A method for facilitating a trade transaction involving units of electrical energy between a plurality of at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) connecting said plurality to a display of a database;
- (b) determining a market sale price based on a market analysis;
- (c) receiving an offer to sell based upon the market sale price into the database;
- (d) receiving an offer to buy based upon the market sale price into the database;
- (e) accepting said offers into the database;
- (f) displaying said offers to said plurality, wherein each of said offers is comprised of a quantity of units of electrical energy and a unit price, wherein the unit price displayed to each participant of the plurality is adjusted to reflect any charges associated with transmitting said units of

electrical energy from the one participant to each participant of the plurality, wherein the charges associated with transmitting said units of electrical energy are minimized by a method comprised of:

(i) storing a list of transaction conditions wherein said list comprises –

(a) a first parameter associated with a quantity of units that can be physically delivered wherein said first parameter is a limit on an electrical energy unit transmission capacity,

(b) a second parameter associated with a contractual agreement between at least one or more buyer and seller participants, and

(ii) determining a least cost path utilizing said list of transaction conditions; and

(g) facilitating a trade transaction for units of electrical energy.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein step (f) further comprises displaying a reliability indicator associated with each of the offers.

52. (New) A method of selling a quantity of electric energy between at least two participants, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) connecting a first participant to a database display;

(b) connecting a second participant to the database display; and

(c) displaying a price for the quantity of electrical energy by:

(i) establishing a database of a current time period offers; and

(ii) establishing a database of a next time period offers.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 further comprises displaying the next time

period offers during the current time period.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 further comprises stopping the consummation of next time period transactions at a predetermined time during the current time period.